

Off
the **Page**

Off
the **Page**

June 2004. It's the eighth day I've paced the Kapiti Coast foreshore with nicotine cravings. Beating addiction is a day-by-day proposition. There is grief, but if one persists . . . I play old tapes, and one reels into another until they have become one entwined skein of memories. My past is compressed into the present, pulling me into the future. I started smoking and drinking again after Sam died. It was 11 years after my father passed away. My second wife Jane informed me of his death on a May evening in 1989. I learnt of hers in the *Dominion Post* on February 1, 2004. June 2004. It's the eighth day I've paced the Kapiti Coast foreshore with nicotine cravings. Beating addiction is a day-by-day proposition. There is grief, but if one persists . . . I play old tapes, and one reels into another until they have become one entwined skein of memories. My past is compressed into the present, pulling me into the future. I started smoking and drinking again after Sam died. It was 11 years after my father passed away. My second wife Jane informed me of his death on a May evening in 1989. I learnt of hers in the *Dominion Post* on February 1, 2004.

**The Personal Essay
Writing Workshop**

**Paraparaumu Library
July 26 & 27, 2008**

**Convenor Lindsay Rabbitt
Special Guest Fiona Kidman**



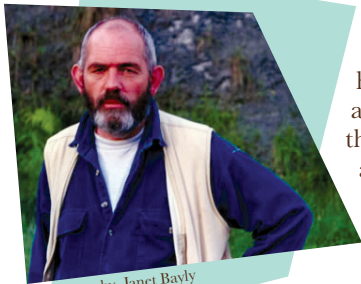


Photo by Janet Bayly

Lindsay was born in Invercargill in 1950 and spent his formative years in Central Otago. He did an apprenticeship in hand and machine typography at the Central Otago News and for many years worked as a linotype operator on newspapers in New Zealand and Australia.

In the late 1970s he founded Voice Press, which published prose and poetry as well as trade work.

In the mid 1990s Lindsay reinvented himself as a journalist, and for 10 years has been a contributor to the arts and books pages of the NZ Listener.

He is also a published poet, multi-media artist and filmmaker. He is currently working on a documentary on Paekakariki. His latest book is *These Lives I Have Buried*, which was published as part of the prestigious Montana Estates Essay series, edited by Lloyd Jones.

Extract from *These Lives I Have Buried*:

June 2004. It's the eighth day I've paced the Kapiti Coast foreshore with nicotine cravings. Beating addiction is a day-by-day proposition. There is grief, but if one persists . . . I play old tapes, and one reels into another until they have become one entwined skein of memories. My past is compressed into the present, pulling me into the future. I started smoking and drinking again after Sam died. It was 11 years after my father passed away. My second wife Jane informed me of his death on a May evening in 1989. I learnt of hers in the *Dominion Post* on February 1, 2004.

“Only a reader with an exceptionally hard heart could finish this book without wanting to shake Rabbitt’s hand and wish him well.” –

Iain Sharp, *Sunday Star-Times*.

“Raw and insightful.” – Philip Matthews, the *Listener*.

“Lindsay has lived a life “a little more than some other writers” – as Robert Lowell once put it of himself – but he has lived that life as a man whose work is words. His strongly written and moving essay *These Lives I have Buried*, confirms this”, says Bill Manhire.

Limited to 16 people

\$45

We will contact you for confirmation of your placement and payment.

This workshop is a Friend’s of the Kapiti Coast District Libraries initiative

Day One 10am – 3pm

Session one: An introduction to the personal Essay as a literary form. Lindsay will talk about his experience of writing his essay, *These Lives I Have Buried*. He will also talk about how other writers have employed the genre.

Session two: Lindsay will speak to each participant about the piece of writing they submitted prior to the workshop. They will discuss a vignette that could be written at the workshop.

Session three: Will involve all participants writing an 800-word (approximately) vignette.

4 – 6pm

Fiona Kidman will speak about her new memoir *At the End of Darwin Road*. Drinks and finger-food and an opportunity to purchase Fiona’s book and have it signed will follow.

Day Two 10am – 3.30pm

Session one: Writing to continue.

Session two: All participants will read out what they have written to be critiqued by others at the workshop. There will be some discussion about how the pieces could be built into bigger works.

Apply for the workshop by completing this form and sending one page of your writing, preferably in the personal essay genre.

We have one free place for an un-waged person, please indicate if you wish to be considered for this.

Name

Address

Telephone (hm)(wk)

Email

Why you would like to be considered for the workshop:

Waged

Unwaged

**Please return to: Writing Workshop
C/- Linda Niccol
72 Rosetta Road, Raumati 5032**